Should we fear death as Christians.

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Introduction

Throughout the entire world, death is feared by almost everyone. This is due to the fact that once one dies, he/she doesn't come back to life, and this has several or numerous effects especially negative ones. For example when a husband of a family dies, he leaves his wife widowed, and his children fatherless, and since he was the provider of the family, the remained may endure severe poverty. So, these reasons and the life are the ones make people to fear death to a great degree. This fear is so strong that it extends to Christians who claim be saved are living under a constant fear of death. My research will examine whether we as Christians should fear death as non-believers.

God created man with a perfect plan to him (peace, love, justice); God told man to be fruitful, rule over every living (Genesis 1:28). Death brought by our fore-father, Adam disobeyed God's warning and ate the forbidden tree and sin come in the world because of one man.

Biblically death is the wages of sin (Romans 6:23), and also it is a separation of soul from the body which gives it life and spiritual death also is a separation of soul from God. Before a person die is with hopes, emotion, feelings, cognition, intellect, but when soul separated from the body all things stops; there is no thinking, knowledge, planning, working, wisdom (Ecclesiastes 9:10). As death brought by first Adam but we have hope that second Adam destroyed (took away) the power of death on the cross, and for those who believe in him shall not perish, but we shall live with him in Paradise. That is why we should not fear death because death is the way we must pass in order to go to heaven and have eternal life.

Chapter 1. Definition of Death

Death is the cassation of the connection between our mind and our body. Bible is clear because it presents death as separation: Physical death is the separation of the soul from the body, and Spiritual death is the separation of the soul from God.
Most people think that death take place when the heart stops beating; but this does not mean that the person has died, because this subtle mind may still remain in his body.
Death occurs when the subtle consciousness finally leaves the body to go to the next life. Our body is like guest house and our mind has to leave this body and enter the body of our next rebirth, like a guest leaving one guesthouse and traveling to another.

In Genesis 2:17, the Lord warned Adam that the penalty for disobedience would be death. “You will surely die”. When Adam disobeyed, he experienced immediate spiritual death, which caused him to hide “from God (Lord) among the trees of the garden” (Genesis 3:8). Later Adam experienced physical death (Genesis 5:5). This disobedience of Adam caused death to be the result of sin, “for the wages of sin is death”, (Romans 6:23a). The whole word is subject to death, because all have sinned. “By one man sin entered the world, and death by sin, and so death passed up on all men for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).

On the cross, Jesus experienced physical death (Matthew 27:50). The difference is that Adam died because he was a sinner, and Jesus who had never sinned, chose to die as a substitute for sinners (Hebrew 2:9). Jesus then showed his power over death and sin by rising from the dead on the third day (Matthew 28; Revelation 1:18). Because of Christ, death is a defeated foe. “O death, where is thy string? O grave, where is thy victory?” (1Corinthians 15:55; Hosea 13:14).
For the unsaved people, death brings to an end the chance to accept God’s gracious offer of salvation, which leads them to eternal death. But for the saved people, death ushers us into the presence of Christ: To be absent from, and to be present with the lord” (2Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23). So real is the promise of the believer’s resurrection that the physical death of Christians is called “sleep” (1Corinthians 15:51; 1Thessalonians 5:10).

We look forward to that time when “there shall be no more death” (Revelation 21:4). This death of the saved people leads to enjoy eternal life.

Chapter 2. Types of Death

There are three types of “death” which are spoken in the Bible. The first is called the “physical” death; the second is called “spiritual” death; and the third is called “eternal” death:

2. a. Physical Death

Physical death is the separation of man’ soul from his body.

Physical death is grotesque. The one moment there is a person inside that body-a person with hopes, fears, aspirations, dreams, cognition, emotion feelings, intellect, and awareness. In the next few moments something bizarre happens. That person's heart stops beating, he quits breathing, his brain ceases to function, his bodily function cease, and life flickers away. When all this function of body stops functioning the gift of God we have, which is soul (Genesis 1:30b) goes back to God and it Waits for final judgment, (Hebrew 9:27).

The lifespan of Man continued to be reduced after fall of man and after flood, until it reached to 120 years (Genesis 6:3), and now it reaches on 70 or 80 years according to psalm 90:10.

This physical death for the saved people is like sleep (John 11:11) where they are to wake at the second coming of Christ and they get eternal life (John 3:16) in Heaven, in John 10:10 Jesus tough, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly". This physical life is the end where the soul continue, this is the way all people will pass, there is no and who can escape this physical death (unless Jesus return first).

2. b. Spiritual Death

Spiritual death is the separation of the soul from God. In Genesis 2:17, God tells Adam that in the day he eats of the forbidden fruit he will “surely die”. Adam does fell, but his physical death goes not occur immediately, God must have had another type of death in mind which is spiritual death. This separation from God is exactly what we see in Genesis 3:8. When Adam and Eve heard the voice of God, “they hide themselves from the presence of the lord God”. The fellowship had been broken, they were spiritually dead.

When Jesus was handing on the cross, He paid the price for us by dying on our behalf. Even though Hi is God, He still had to suffer the agony of a temporary separation from the Father due to the sin of the world He was carrying on the cross.
After three hours of spiritual darkness, He cried “My Lord, My God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:33-34). This spiritual separation from the Father was the result of the son’s taking our sin upon Himself. That is the impact of sin, sin is the exact opposite of God, and God had to turn away from his own son at that point in time.

Man without Christ is spiritually dead. Before salvation (being born again), we are dead (spiritually), But when we are born again, the spiritual death is reserved. Jesus gave us his life and died for our sins, when you accept him as your personal savior, He takes you out of death of sin and circumcise tour sinful nature and made you alive with Christ (Ephesians 2:1). ; And He gave us all our sins (Colossians 2:13). When we are spiritually dead, we cannot be able to save ourselves, powerless to perceive the life of God until Jesus called us to himself. He “quickened” us, not because of his mercy” (Titus 3:5).
When the people die physically by the time he was dead spiritually, it leads him to the second death or eternal death.

2. c. Eternal Death

Eternal death is the eternal separation of a person from God, and it is also called ***second death***.

The book of Revelation speaks of *“second death* ,” which is final (eternal) separation of a person from God. Only those who have never experienced new life in Christ will partake of the second death (Revelation 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8).
Unless spiritual death reserved in his life the result will be eternal death, this is unending separation between God and all who reject Him, but *the believers are not affected by the second death.*
“Blessed and holly are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be the priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6).
The judgment, or lake of fire is the time when the second death occurs (Revelation 20:14). Once person has expressed the “second death” there is no hope for them, it is irreversible.

In scripture, the idea of eternal life: Those who have eternal death are contrasted with that of eternal life. Those who have eternal life are those who will spend eternity with the Lord. Those who experience eternal death are unbelievers who spend eternity apart from the Lord.

Chapter 3. Some Biblical Themes.

3. a. What Does The Bible Says About Death?

In the bible, we found that: “death is like sleep” .notice the apostle Paul’s comforting instructions to the believers in Thessalonica: *“but I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren concerning those who have fallen asleep (those who had died), lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again , even so God will bring with him those who sleep in Jesus* "(1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).

The Bible speaks of our bodies as being the temple of the Lord; therefore, we are temple dwellers (1Corintians 6:19). When death comes, there is separation of the spirit from the body. When the hour comes that the body no longer is inhabitable because of old ages, disease, or something else, the bible speaks of the spirit as moving out of the house of clay, the tenement in which we dwell.

The Bible says “it is appointed unto men once to die.” The bible says that for everything there is a season: there is a time to plant, there is the time to pluck up; a time to sow and the time to reap; a time to live and a time to die.
We cannot go away from it; it is a fact, and nobody escape it (death).

How death is similar to sleep? Death is similar to sleep in that no conscious thought occurs when one has died. There two statements we found in Ecclesiastes about this reality:

- “For the living knows that they will die; but the dead know nothing” (Ecclesiastes 9:5)
- “whatever your hands find to do , do it with your might ; for there is no work or advice or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going “ (Ecclesiastes 9:10) .

This sleep is for the believers who are waiting for resurrection and then they go to heaven to enjoy eternal life. The people who have died are not awake in heaven! There are “sleeping or resting” in their graves and the dead in Christ will rise first (1 Thessalonians 4:15 – 16).

It is important for us to know the truth about death because the first lie of Satan was, “you shall not surely die “. Since, then, he has convinced many, even sincere Christians, that when you die you are not really die. If Satan can convince you that the dead are living and are able to communicate with you, he can begin to use that belief to deceive you out of your eternal inheritance, just like the way he deceived Adam and Eve out of their garden “paradise.”

For instance, you might believe that your dead grandmother is visiting you telling you that your pastor is evil, that any religion is acceptable to God, or whatever else that could turn you from your loving Father, his truth, and his kingdom.
You must know the word of God and the God of the word. Diligently read the scriptures every day and pray regularly so that your connection with God who is in the Heaven remains secure and your knowledge of God increases.

3. b. Would Adam Has Died If He Had Not Sinned?

He certainly would not have died in the way he did eventually die, and certainly Abel would not have died as he died, murdered by his brother, if Adam would not sinned. Death as we know it, with it fears and hurts and mysteries-that kind of death would not have existed[1].

Adam would have gone to glory rather in the same way as Christians will get to glory if they are still alive when Christ returns. According to 1Thessaloniams 4:17, when Christ returns the Christians who are still alive will be caught up to meet Christ in the air, and so they will be forever with the Lord.
Obviously their bodies will have to be changed to match the resurrected bodies of Christians who die before Christ's return.
Christ's work at Calvary reversed the work of the disobedient first man, and that amongst those things reversed was this matter of death. And that although death is changed for Christian now, his return in glory will see the final reserve of the catastrophic change brought about by Adam's sin, the end of death as we know it, and the restoration of God's original intention: a gloricious peaceful transformation from this world to heaven.
If Adam had not sinned, he would not have been divested of his body, but would have been clothed upon with immortality and incorruption, that "mortality have been swallowed up of life"; that is, that they might have passed from the natural body into the spiritual body.
But after Adam ate the forbidden fruit, he died spiritually.

3. c. Why Didn't Adam Die On The Day He Ate The Forbidden Fruit, As God Had Warned?

He did, God have given them authority to eat the tree of life but not the tree of knowledge of Good and evil. Adam and Eve chose to ignore what God had said, by eating forbidden tree; after they ate that tree, the bible taught that by them they were

[1] I want to know what the bible says about death, Peter, P13

already actually "spiritually dead" (Genesis 3:8). To be spiritually dead is the experience of every one of us until the grace of God brings us back to spiritual life again.

The bible teaches us that Adam brought a double death (1Corinthians 15:22), "For as in Adam die, so also in Christ shall all made alive".
Because Adam brought physical death (Genesis 5:5) of the kind that now awaits us all, there must be a resurrection from that physical death[2].

First Adam killed us, but the last (second) Adam brought us back to life by the time he died on the cross. It was spiritual death Adam died when he disobeyed God's command (Genesis 3:8). Incidentally it is very important to notice that just as we were died spiritually, before we become Christians, so now, If are Christians we have eternal life (John 6:47)[3].

Chapter 4. Where Do We Go When We Die?

Because Jesus is the only one who ever died and come back to life on the third day, Jesus knows more about death than everyone who has speculated about what happens after we die.

4. a. Believers

A person who has trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as his savior goes immediately to heaven to be in presence of the Lords. Though their body is the grave and decomposes, their soul and spirit (the immaterial part, the real person) goes immediately into the presence of the savior. At the rapture (the return of the Lord for the Church) the dead in Christ return with him and their bodies are raised, so that their souls and spirits are joined with their resurrected, glorified bodies. At the same time, those are alive when Christ returns are simply transformed into their glorified bodies like that of the savior's. There is no intermediate place or condition of soul sleep. Rather, believers are in heaven with the Lord and very much aware of his presence (Luke 23:43).

Jesus told the dying thief on the cross next to him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in Paradise". (Luke 23:43) Jesus told his disciplines, "will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be here I am" (John 14:3). So, believers go to be with Jesus in Paradise when they die.

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[2] I want to know what the bible says about death, Peter, P34
[3] I want to know what the bible says about death, Peter, P36

The bodies of the believers who died, when Jesus will come they will rose and be changed as Jesus by the time he resurrected. As their bodies were slept, they will awake and go to enjoy eternal life.

4. b. Non-believers

Jesus told a parable about a rich man who was non-believer. “The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away” (Luke 16:22-23).
So, the rich man went to a place of torment when he died. Jesus also said, “And if your eye causes you to sin, plucks it out. It is better for you enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into Hell, where ‘their worn does not die, and the fire is not quenched’” (Mark 9:47-48).
Even though was exaggerating for emphasis when he said “pluck it out”, he plainly said that loosing an eye is much better then ending up in hell. Both Jesus’ statements plainly teach that non-believers go to a horrible place called*hell* .

Briefly, people who believe in God and trust in Jesus to save them will go to be with him (Jesus) in paradise, but the People who don’t believe in God, or who trust in their own goodness to save them, go to hade (hell). Jesus will return on the Earth to judge and reign for thousand (1,000) years. After that judgment, the non-believers will be thrown in the lake of fire along with Satan and his demons. Believers will then spend eternity with God in the New Jerusalem.

Chapter 5. How Christ Destroyed Death?

According to bible in 1Corinthians 15:26, says that: ***‘the last enemy to be destroyed is death ”***. All those are by faith united to Christ are by his resurrection assured of their own. As through the sin of the first Adam, all men become mortal, because all had from him the same sinful nature; so, through the resurrection of Christ, shall all who are made to partake of the spirit, and the spiritual nature, receive, and live forever. There will be an order in the resurrection. Christ himself has been the first-fruits; at this coming, his redeemed people will be raised before others; at the last wicked will rise also. Then will be the end of his present state of things. Would we triumph in that solemn and important season, must now submit to his rule, accept his salvation, and live to his glory. Then shall we rejoice in the completion of his undertaking, that god may for ever serve him, and enjoy his favor.

The bible says that Jesus has abolished (destroyed) death.
"But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel " (2Timothy 1:10). The word death in this verse refers to spiritual, not physical death. By dying on the cross for the sins of the world and rising from the dead, Jesus achieved victory over spiritual death. The believers (Human being) no longer need to be separated from God. They now have life and immortality through Christ. He, therefore, abolished spiritual death in the sense that Christians are made spiritually alive through believing in him (Romans 6:4, 11, 13).

We hope that our life does end at death. For us as Christians it goes beyond hope and becomes our assurance. We are very much aware of what death does: it brings to an end the Earthly life of one with whom we have shared life; it separates us from those whom we love; it robs is of the fellowship, the love, the life experiences with our loved ones. We know what death do, but ***what is it that death cannot do?***[4] Death cannot separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus as Paul wrote that *"who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ..... no anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord "* .

The power of death over human being has been defeated by Christ (1Corinthians 15:21, 56-57), because Jesus has been resurrected from the dead, so we all believers be resurrected also. If you believe that Jesus is resurrection and life you shall never die (John 11:25-26). **Do you believe that?**
Resurrection centers in the power of God to rise from the dead, this power of God gives life. We have assurance of resurrection through resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead[5].
Paul described Christ's resurrection as "the first fruits of them that slept" (1 Corinthians 15:20). The fruits are the first grain or fruit that is harvested. They are the promise of mote to follow. Christ's resurrection is the promise that Christians will be resurrected also (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). We are persons who live in a continued relationship with God that goes on, because through God's power, we go on. For us, death can be a victory.

Jesus at his resurrection from the dead, when he comes back from the dead, he achieved victory over the powers of death. He said, "I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and of Hades (hell), (Revelation 1:18).

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[4] Facing the final foe, James; 1986, P24
[5] Facing the final foe, James; 1986, P26

Although death is something that even human being faces, Jesus Christ conquered it by his resurrection from the dead. When a person trusts Christ as his savior, they are no longer spiritually dead. Christ has abolished spiritual death for the believer (1 Corinthians 15:55). Therefore, those who are born physically and once spiritually and once eternally. Those who are born twice, once physically, and once spiritually will die only physically-they will live eternally with the Lord (John 3:3).

We can see how Jesus Christ destroyed the root of death. It is written that, *"death is swallowed in victory. O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength (power) of sin is the law "* (1 Corinthians 15:54-56).

Matt Slick wrote that: "Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that we might be forgiven when we trust in what Christ has done there. When we by faith receive the sacrifice He offered, we can then have ***eternal life*** and escape the righteous judgment of God the Father. On the cross, Jesus voluntarily bore our sins. He allowed people to lie about Him and kill Him. He used the evil done to Him to bring good to others. He sacrificed Himself and demonstrated the greatest love of all. On the cross is where we are redeemed, and it is where our sin debt to God is cancelled"

Chapter 6. Conclusion

Francis Bacon wrote that "men***fear death as children fear to go in the dark; and as that natural fear in children increased with tales, so is the other*** ". But Christians should not fear death as that children because Christ has abolished (destroyed) it on the cross.

Generally, death is a punishment that comes because of disobedience of our fore-father (Genesis 2:17) when he ate the forbidden free (tree of knowledge), this disobedience brought spiritual death and physical death that leads to eternal death (second death). When the body dies, it decayed in the grave which is considered as sleep, and the soul goes back to God who gave it to you as a gift, but When the soul separated from God, it is a serious death that can put you in hell, and it leads to eternal fire, but when you receive and believe Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, he gives you the right to be called the children of God (John 3:3) and after receiving him you escape spiritual death to enjoy eternal life.

As we have seen, the most terrible death according to the bible is eternal death, not physical death. Therefore, Christians should not fear death since to die physically is to be with God spiritually and is the way to heaven and also is our victory. However, we should live in this world, by keeping in mind that we will not live in this world forever because our citizen is not here on the world but is in the heaven (Philippians 3:20), thus we should use our opportunities to preach the gospel to those who are perishing.

Jesus will come back on the Earth to judge and to change the body of the believers to resurrected body. The resurrected people will have eternal life where there will be no death again.

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